



Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

August 27, 2003

The Honorable Marianne Horinko
Acting Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Acting Administrator Horinko:

I want to thank you personally for the attentiveness of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency throughout the day today as my staff called to relay increasing concerns about the potential for a gasoline supply shortage in the Pittsburgh marketing area in southwestern Pennsylvania.

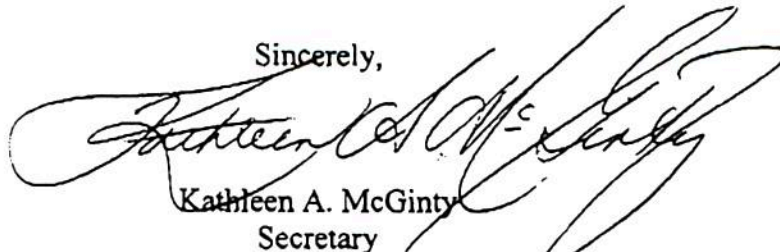
Given the information presented in the attached two letters that we received late on Wednesday, Aug. 27, we are convinced that the possibility of a shortage of 7.8-pound RVP gasoline is very real. We therefore respectfully request that you grant Pennsylvania the authority to waive the 7.8-pound RVP requirement and thereby avoid supply disruptions and their concomitant impact on consumers.

Let me underscore that we have checked both long-term weather patterns and short-term weather forecasts with the competent authorities and have been assured that the chance of an ozone event between now and Sept. 15 is very low. My staff therefore believes that a waiver would not have negative consequences for either the health of the residents of southwestern Pennsylvania or for the attainment status of the region.

In addition to the specific information in the attached letters, we have also been polling various Pittsburgh area distributors and have heard from some that supplies are tight but adequate while others report that supplies are being restricted to branded or contract customers. And as indicated in one of the attached letters, one major distributor strongly believes their customers would be out of product entirely by midnight tonight.

Given the extra demand imposed by a holiday weekend and the potentially serious consequences for the residents of southwestern Pennsylvania should acute supply disruptions be realized, we believe it would be appropriate for us to have the authority to act immediately to resolve problems that may arise. Thank you for your immediate attention to this pressing matter.

Sincerely,



Kathleen A. McGinty
Secretary

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

